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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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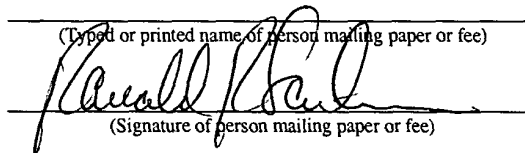
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above referenced patent application, Applicants
respectfully request that the application be amended as follows: